

MIT Open Access Articles

Wettability control on multiphase flow in patterned microfluidics

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. **Please share** how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

Citation: Zhao, Benzhong; MacMinn, Christopher W. and Juanes, Ruben. "Wettability Control on Multiphase Flow in Patterned Microfluidics." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 113, no. 37 (August 2016): 10251–10256. © 2016 National Academy of Sciences

As Published: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1603387113>

Publisher: National Academy of Sciences (U.S.)

Persistent URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/108824>

Version: Final published version: final published article, as it appeared in a journal, conference proceedings, or other formally published context

Terms of Use: Article is made available in accordance with the publisher's policy and may be subject to US copyright law. Please refer to the publisher's site for terms of use.



Wettability control on multiphase flow in patterned microfluidics

 Zhong Zhao^a, Christopher W. MacMinn^b, and Ruben Juanes^{a,1}
^aDepartment of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139; and ^bDepartment of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3PJ, United Kingdom

Edited by David A. Weitz, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and approved July 19, 2016 (received for review February 29, 2016)

Multiphase flow in porous media is important in many natural and industrial processes, including geologic CO₂ sequestration, enhanced oil recovery, and water infiltration into soil. Although it is well known that the wetting properties of porous media can vary drastically depending on the type of media and pore fluids, the effect of wettability on multiphase flow continues to challenge our microscopic and macroscopic descriptions. Here, we study the impact of wettability on viscously unfavorable fluid–fluid displacement in disordered media by means of high-resolution imaging in microfluidic flow cells patterned with vertical posts. By systematically varying the wettability of the flow cell over a wide range of contact angles, we find that increasing the substrate’s affinity to the invading fluid results in more efficient displacement of the defending fluid up to a critical wetting transition, beyond which the trend is reversed. We identify the pore-scale mechanisms—cooperative pore filling (increasing displacement efficiency) and corner flow (decreasing displacement efficiency)—responsible for this macroscale behavior, and show that they rely on the inherent 3D nature of interfacial flows, even in quasi-2D media. Our results demonstrate the powerful control of wettability on multiphase flow in porous media, and show that the markedly different invasion protocols that emerge—from pore filling to post-bridging—are determined by physical mechanisms that are missing from current pore-scale and continuum-scale descriptions.

porous media | capillarity | wettability | microfluidics | pattern formation

Multiphase flow in porous media is important in many natural and industrial processes, including geologic CO₂ sequestration (1), enhanced oil recovery (2), water infiltration into soil (3), and transport in polymer electrolyte fuel cells (4). Much of the research on multiphase flow in porous media has focused on the effect of fluid properties and flow conditions. Much less emphasis has been given to the fluids’ affinity to the porous media (i.e., wettability), even though wettability has a profound influence on fluid–fluid interactions in the presence of a solid surface (5–7). Despite recent advances in our ability to accurately measure wettability under reservoir conditions (8, 9), and to engineer wettability in the subsurface (10–13), the complex physics of wetting continues to challenge our microscopic and macroscopic descriptions (14).

Fluid–fluid displacement in the presence of a solid surface can be characterized as either drainage or imbibition, depending on the system’s wettability. Drainage refers to the regime where the invading fluid is less wetting to the solid surface than the defending fluid. Imbibition refers to the opposite case, where the invading fluid is more wetting to the solid surface than the defending fluid. Drainage in porous media has been studied extensively through laboratory experiments and computer simulations (15–18), and we now have a fairly good understanding of the different displacement patterns, which include compact displacement, capillary fingering, and viscous fingering. The key dimensionless parameters that control these displacement patterns are the viscosity ratio \mathcal{M} (the ratio of the viscosity of the defending fluid to that of the invading fluid) and the capillary number Ca (a measure of the strength of viscous forces relative to capillary forces).

In contrast with the wealth of observations in the drainage regime, imbibition (especially for viscously unstable displacement) remains relatively unexplored, even though early experiments have shown significant differences between drainage and imbibition (19). Specifically, the morphology of the displacement pattern broadens as the invading fluid becomes more wetting to the medium. This observation was confirmed by recent experiments (20) and pore-scale simulations (21), which found that increasing the medium’s affinity to the invading fluid makes the invasion pattern more compact at all Ca . However, the complete range of wetting conditions in imbibition is yet to be fully explored, especially in the regime where the invading fluid is strongly wetting to the porous medium.

Here, we use patterned microfluidic flow cells to study viscously unfavorable fluid–fluid displacement (i.e., $\mathcal{M} > 1$) in porous media under an unprecedentedly wide range of wettability conditions. We image the system at high resolution, providing simultaneous visualization of both the physics of wetting at the pore scale and the impact of wetting on the macroscopic displacement pattern. We find that wettability has a nonmonotonic effect on two-phase flow in porous media: Increasing the medium’s affinity to the invading fluid results in more efficient displacement of the defending fluid until a critical wetting transition, after which the displacement becomes significantly less efficient. We show that this dramatic transition is caused by corner flow, which allows the invading fluid to propagate without filling the pore bodies. We further show that the pore-scale displacement becomes incomplete at large Ca due to the formation of wetting films on the solid surfaces, which can be either the viscous defending fluid or the less viscous invading fluid depending on the wettability condition. Our results demonstrate the complex nature of wettability control on multiphase flow in porous media, which involves key physical

Significance

The simultaneous flow of multiple fluid phases through a porous solid occurs in many natural and industrial processes—for example, rainwater infiltrates into soil by displacing air, and carbon dioxide is stored in deep saline aquifers by displacing brine. It has been known for decades that wetting—the affinity of the solid to one of the fluids—can have a strong impact on the flow, but the microscale physics and macroscopic consequences remain poorly understood. Here, we study this in detail by systematically varying the wetting properties of a microfluidic porous medium. Our high-resolution images reveal the fundamental control of wetting on multiphase flow, elucidate the inherently 3D pore-scale mechanisms, and help explain the striking macroscopic displacement patterns that emerge.

Author contributions: R.J. designed research; B.Z. performed research; B.Z. and C.W.M. analyzed data; and B.Z., C.W.M., and R.J. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

This article is a PNAS Direct Submission.

¹To whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: juanes@mit.edu.

 This article contains supporting information online at www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.1603387113/-DCSupplemental.

mechanisms that are likely to play an important role in natural porous media such as rocks and soils.

Experiments in Patterned Microfluidics

We conduct fluid–fluid displacement experiments in quasi-2D microfluidic flow cells patterned with vertical posts (Fig. 1). This system allows for clear visualization of flow in a porous medium with a known and controllable microstructure, eliminating the uncertainty of natural media and enabling reproducibility (22–24). We fabricate the flow cells with a photocurable polymer (NOA81, Norland Optical Adhesives) via soft imprint lithography. To make the NOA81 surface more hydrophilic, we expose it to high-energy UV radiation—it becomes increasingly hydrophilic with longer exposure time (25, 26). To make the NOA81 surface more hydrophobic, we apply chemical vapor deposition (CVD) of trimethoxysilane in an enclosed chamber (20) (*SI Appendix, Fig. S3*). These techniques allow us to access a wide range of wettability conditions, which we characterize using the static advancing contact angle of water immersed in silicone oil. Specifically, we achieve stable contact angles of $\theta = 150^\circ$ (strong drainage), $\theta = 120^\circ$ (weak drainage), $\theta = 90^\circ$ (neutral), $\theta = 60^\circ$ (weak imbibition), and $\theta = 7^\circ$ (strong imbibition); *SI Appendix, Fig. S3*. We fabricate a new flow cell for each experiment to ensure precise control over its wettability.

To perform an experiment, we first fully saturate the flow cell with silicone oil ($\eta_{\text{oil}} = 340 \text{ mPa} \cdot \text{s}$). We then inject deionized water ($\eta_{\text{water}} = 0.99 \text{ mPa} \cdot \text{s}$) into the center of the flow cell at a constant rate Q , forcing radially outward displacement of the defending silicone oil. This is a viscously unfavorable displacement, with viscosity ratio $\mathcal{M} = \eta_{\text{oil}}/\eta_{\text{water}} \approx 340$. We characterize the importance of viscous forces relative to capillary forces using the classical macroscopic capillary number $\text{Ca} = \eta_{\text{oil}} v_{\text{inj}}/\gamma$ (18), where $\gamma = 13 \pm 2 \text{ mN/m}$ is the interfacial tension between the fluids and $v_{\text{inj}} = Q/(bd)$ is the characteristic injection velocity for a gap thickness b and a median pore-throat size d . By varying the injection rate ($Q = 0.002, 0.02$, and 0.2 mL/min), we conduct experiments at three capillary numbers spanning 2 orders of magnitude ($\text{Ca} = 2.9 \times 10^{-3}, 2.9 \times 10^{-2}$, and 2.9×10^{-1} , respectively) for each of the 5 wettability conditions described above.

Results and Discussion

Our main result is an experimental phase diagram of the displacement patterns obtained under a wide range of wettability conditions and capillary numbers (Fig. 2 and *Movies S1–S3*). The phase diagram is a striking qualitative demonstration of the

remarkable control wettability exerts on multiphase flow in porous media. To provide quantitative insight into these patterns, we calculate three metrics for each experiment: (i) We quantify the patterns in 2D by calculating their fractal dimension D_f via the box-counting method (Fig. 3A); this is a classical measure of the degree to which a pattern fills space in 2D. (ii) We quantify the displacement in 3D using the gap-averaged water saturation S measured via light-intensity calibration (Fig. 3B and *SI Appendix, Fig. S4*). (iii) We also introduce an additional 3D metric, the displacement efficiency E_d , which is the fraction of the defending fluid that has been displaced from the flow cell at the end of the experiment (Fig. 3C).

Certain regions of the phase diagram correspond to flow regimes that have been well studied. In strong drainage, for example, we see the classical transition from capillary fingering ($D_f \approx 1.82$) to viscous fingering ($D_f \approx 1.62$) as Ca increases (Figs. 2 C–A and 3A) (15–18).

Although the 2D morphology of these classical patterns is well known, our results provide insight into the displacement in 3D. We uncover and analyze a wide range of other behaviors for conditions that were previously unexplored.

Incomplete Pore-Scale Displacement. The saturation profile of the experimental phase diagram clearly reveals incomplete pore-scale displacement for all wettability conditions as Ca increases (Fig. 2). That is, the saturation of the invading fluid decreases as an increasing fraction of the defending fluid is left behind (Fig. 3B).

Incomplete displacement and rate dependence in fluid–fluid displacement was first studied in the context of drainage in capillary tubes (27, 28). In the classical experiments of Taylor (27), air is injected into a cylindrical tube that is initially filled with a wetting, viscous fluid. At small Ca , the air advances via contact-line motion and the displacement is complete. At large Ca , however, viscous forces dominate capillarity and the invading air forms a single finger that advances along the center of the tube, leaving a macroscopic trailing film of the defending fluid on the tube walls. We observe similar behavior in our experiments for all wettability conditions except strong imbibition: The invading water fully saturates the cell gap at small Ca ($S \approx 1$), but a trailing film of defending oil is left on the walls at large Ca ($S \approx 0.6$).

In strong imbibition, the water saturation at large Ca ($S \approx 0.3$) is significantly lower than the saturations measured at other wettability conditions at the same Ca (Fig. 3B). In addition, the interface between the invading water and the defending oil

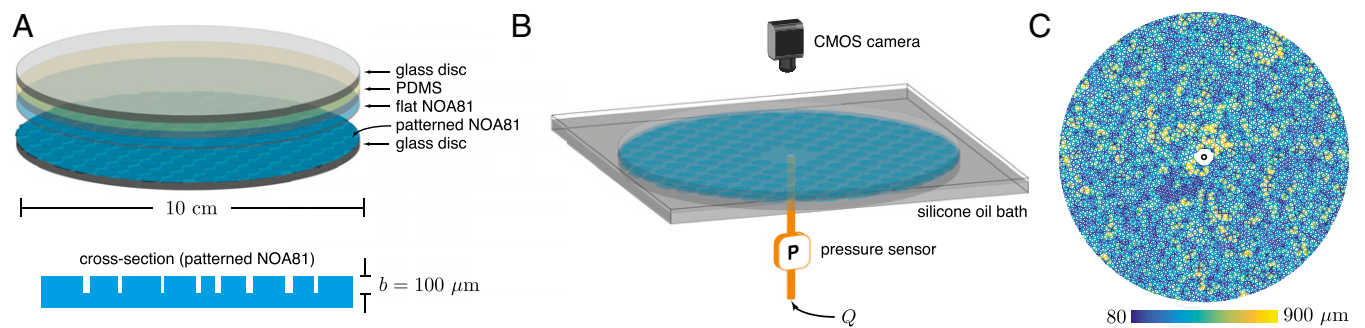


Fig. 1. We conduct radial fluid–fluid displacement experiments by injecting water into viscous silicone oil in quasi-2D microfluidic flow cells patterned with vertical posts. (A) The core of the flow cell is made of a photocurable polymer (NOA81) patterned with circular posts of height $b = 100 \mu\text{m}$. The flow cell has porosity $\phi = 0.45$, pore volume $V = 0.38 \text{ mL}$, and intrinsic permeability $k \approx 2.4 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2$. (B) The flow cell is initially saturated with a viscous silicone oil ($\eta_{\text{oil}} = 340 \text{ mPa} \cdot \text{s}$) and placed in a bath of the same fluid to avoid capillary edge effects. We inject water into the center of the flow cell at a constant rate Q . A pressure sensor records the injection pressure throughout the experiment. We image the experiment from above with a CMOS camera, measuring the gap-averaged water saturation at high spatial and temporal resolution from calibrated light intensity. (C) We design the pattern of posts to introduce disorder, but such that it is macroscopically homogeneous at the scale of the flow cell. Here, we show the spatial distribution of pore-throat sizes, which range from 80 to $900 \mu\text{m}$ (*SI Appendix, Fig. S1*).

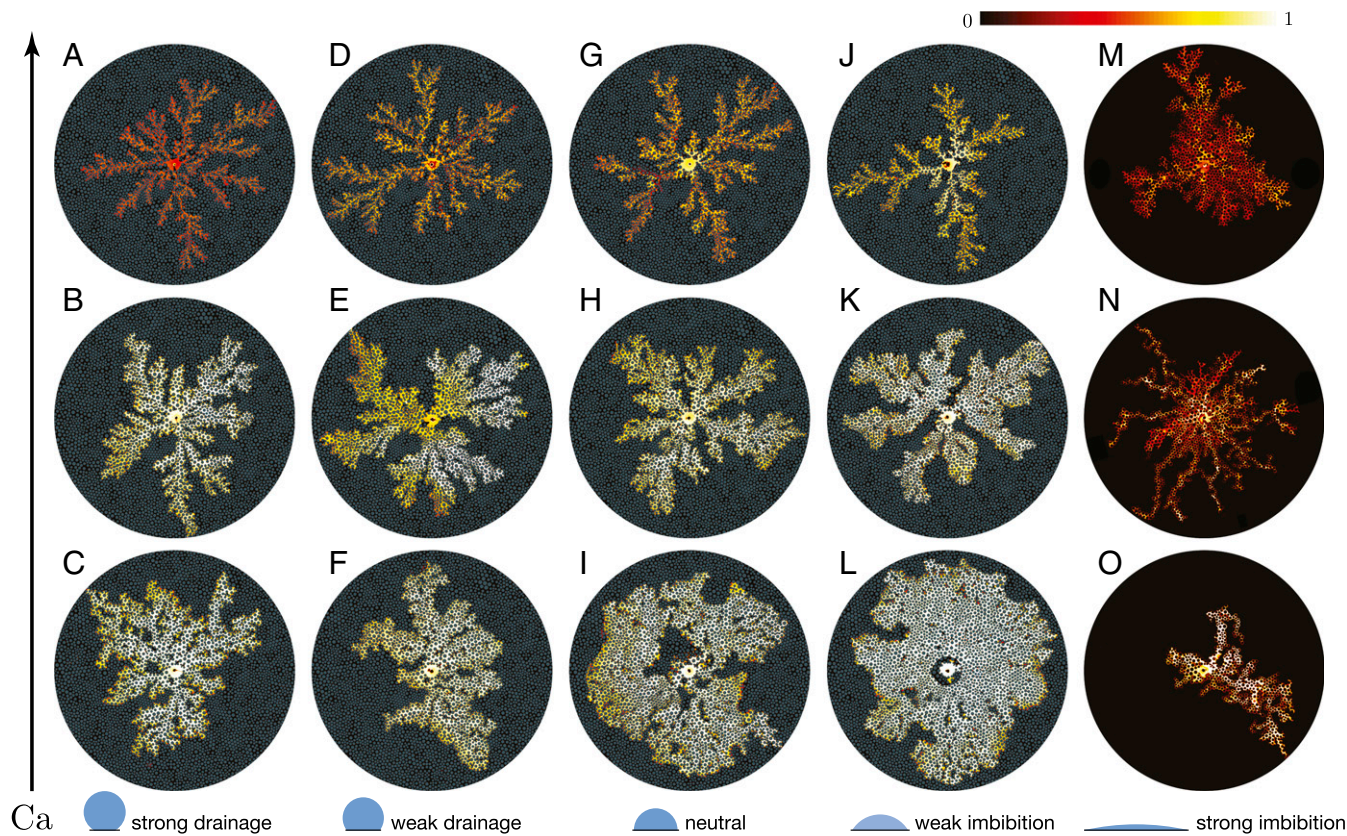


Fig. 2. Displacement patterns for different wettability conditions (left to right: $\theta = 150^\circ, 120^\circ, 90^\circ, 60^\circ, 7^\circ$) and capillary numbers (bottom to top: $Ca = 2.9 \times 10^{-3}, 2.9 \times 10^{-2}, 2.9 \times 10^{-1}$). These patterns correspond to the end of the experiment, which is when the invading fluid reaches the perimeter of the flow cell. The colormap shows the gap-averaged saturation of the invading water. The pattern of circular posts is overlaid on the experimental images and all images are oriented in the same way to aid visual comparison. Generally, the displacement becomes more efficient as the flow cell becomes more hydrophilic (i.e., decreasing θ), or as Ca decreases. These trends do not hold for strong imbibition ($M-O$), which has a very low displacement efficiency for all Ca .

becomes diffuse rather than sharp (Fig. 2M). These observations are consistent with the formation of thin leading films of water, as recently observed in forced imbibition experiments in Hele-Shaw cells (26). Mechanistically, the dynamic contact angle of the meniscus between a low-viscosity wetting fluid displacing a viscous nonwetting fluid decreases with increasing Ca , approaching zero at a critical capillary number Ca^* . For $Ca > Ca^*$, this then enables displacement via thin leading films of wetting fluid that

propagate along the solid surfaces, leaving residual nonwetting defending fluid in the pore bodies. In our experiments, this condition occurs in the transition between $Ca = 2.9 \times 10^{-2}$ and $Ca = 2.9 \times 10^{-1}$.

Compact Displacement via Cooperative Pore Filling. Increasing the medium's affinity to the invading fluid (i.e., decreasing θ ; left to right in Fig. 2) leads to an increasingly compact displacement

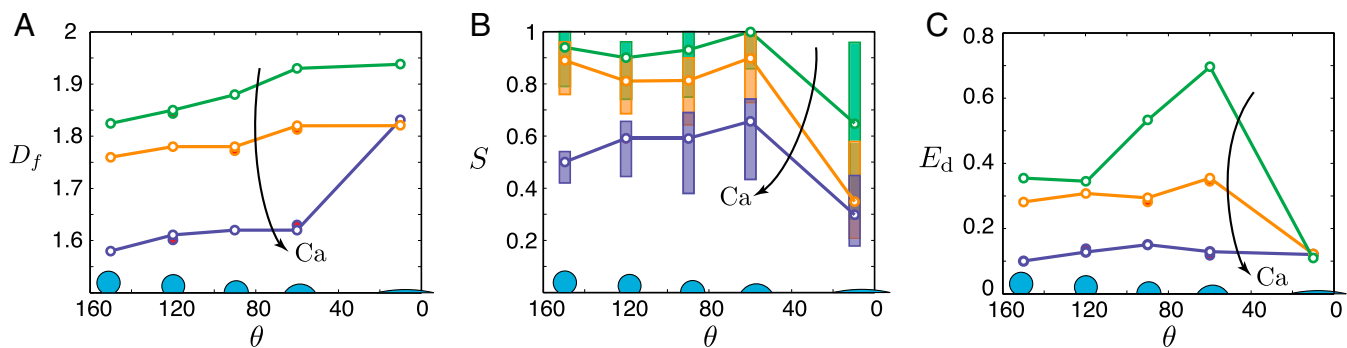


Fig. 3. (A) Fractal dimension D_f of the 2D invasion pattern as a function of the static contact angle θ , computed using the box-counting method. The open circles correspond to the snapshots presented in the phase diagram (Fig. 2) and the filled circles represent additional experiments conducted at the same conditions (SI Appendix, Fig. S6). (B) Box plots of the gap-averaged water saturation S of the invaded regions as a function of θ . The open circles correspond to the median S , and the lower and upper edges of each box represent the first and third quartiles of S , respectively. (C) Displacement efficiency E_d as a function of θ , where E_d is defined as the fraction of the defending fluid that has been displaced from the flow cell at the end of the experiment.

Molecularly hydrophobic and hydrophilic surfaces become macroscopically more hydrophobic and more hydrophilic, respectively, after being roughened (43). In addition, the greater connectivity between grains in a truly 3D porous medium should further facilitate corner flow.

Evolution of Injection Pressure. To develop further insight into the macroscopic impact of wettability on fluid–fluid displacement, we measure the evolution of the injection pressure (Fig. 5). Pressure information in fluid–fluid displacement is of great practical interest in many subsurface technologies, including wastewater disposal (44), geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide (1), and hydraulic fracturing (45), because perturbations in the pore pressure are intimately linked with mechanical deformation of the medium (46).

We place the flow cell in a silicone oil bath to enforce a uniform and constant pressure along the perimeter, and to remove capillary edge effects (Fig. 1*B*). The measured pressure is the sum of the capillary pressure across the oil–water interface ΔP_c and the combined viscous pressure loss in the water and oil phases. The viscous pressure loss decreases as the silicone oil is displaced by the much less viscous water. The characteristic capillary pressure in strong drainage is $\Delta P_c \approx 2\gamma(1/b + 1/d) \approx 0.3$ kPa, where b is the gap thickness of the flow cell and d is the median pore-throat size (22). This is consistent with the observed ΔP_c in strong drainage (Fig. 5*B*).

One might expect wettability to have a weak impact on injection pressure at moderate to high Ca , where the capillary pressure itself becomes small relative to the viscous pressure loss. Instead, we find that wettability exerts a powerful control over the evolution of the injection pressure at all Ca , and the injection pressures for different wettability conditions differ by much more than the capillary pressure itself (Fig. 5). The injection pressure also decreases much more sharply in strong imbibition than in strong drainage or weak imbibition, reflecting the unique displacement mechanisms in strong imbibition: The invading fluid advances along the corners, bypassing the pore bodies, and this rapidly reduces the viscous pressure loss.

Conclusions

We have systematically investigated the impact of wettability on multiphase flow in porous media via fluid–fluid displacement experiments in patterned microfluidic flow cells with controlled wetting properties.

We have shown that fluid–fluid displacement at high Ca is dominated by the formation of wetting films on the solid surfaces

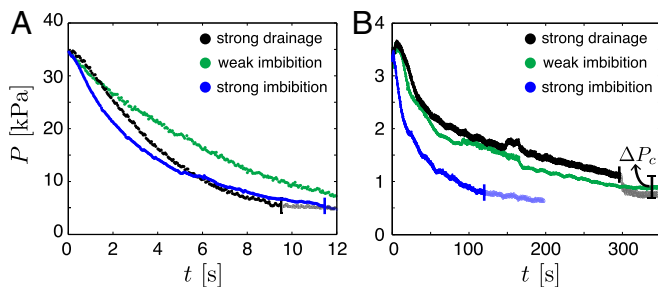


Fig. 5. Evolution of the injection pressure during strong drainage, weak imbibition, and strong imbibition at (A) $Ca = 2.9 \times 10^{-1}$ and (B) $Ca = 2.9 \times 10^{-2}$. The pressure measurements are shifted in time so that $t = 0$ s is the time when the invading water first enters the flow cell. The end of each experiment (i.e., the time when the water first reaches the perimeter of the flow cell) is marked with a vertical line and subsequent measurements are translucent. (B) The sudden drop in injection pressure as the water exits the flow cell in strong drainage corresponds to the capillary pressure ΔP_c across the oil–water interface.

for all wettability conditions, which leads to incomplete displacement at the pore scale. In drainage, these are trailing films of the more viscous defending fluid; in imbibition, they are leading films of the less viscous invading fluid. We have further shown that the displacement pattern becomes more compact as the invading fluid becomes more wetting to the medium (i.e., decreasing θ ; Fig. 2), which leads to more efficient displacement of the defending fluid (Fig. 3). Through visualization of fluid flow at the pore scale, we have provided direct experimental evidence that the more compact invasion front stems from cooperative pore filling (Fig. 4*A*). Our experiments have revealed that the trend of increasingly compact displacement with decreasing θ is unexpectedly reversed as the system exhibits a wetting transition between weak imbibition ($\theta = 60^\circ$) and strong imbibition ($\theta = 7^\circ$). We have shown that this dramatic change is caused by corner flow, which allows the invading fluid to propagate without filling the pore bodies. We have observed marked differences in the evolution of the injection pressure between experiments under different wettability conditions, even at large capillary numbers where viscous pressure dominates over capillary pressure. This finding underscores the significant control wettability exerts on the efficiency of the displacement, which is strongly connected to the viscous pressure drop across the flow cell.

Our results highlight the inherently 3D nature of multiphase flow in porous media, which manifests itself through physical mechanisms such as film formation and corner flow. These wettability-controlled mechanisms have a fundamental impact on multiphase flow, making them challenging but essential ingredients in pore-scale and continuum-scale descriptions. Our microfluidics study of the fundamental mechanisms paves the way for the interpretation and further investigation of wettability control on multiphase flow in natural porous media, which often exhibit spatial heterogeneity in wettability (47, 48), surface roughness (43, 49), and preexisting wetting layers (50).

Materials and Methods

Post Pattern Design. To create the post pattern, we first generate an irregular triangular mesh inside a circle using the pdemesh tool in MATLAB. We use the nodes of the triangular mesh as the centers of the posts. We then assign the radius of each post to be 45% of the distance to its nearest neighbor, which provides a random distribution of nonoverlapping posts. Detailed statistics of the post size and the pore-throat size distributions are provided in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S1.

Microfluidic Flow Cell Fabrication. We fabricate the flow cells via soft imprint lithography following the procedures detailed in Bartolo et al. (51). We first generate a silicon master of the post pattern via conventional photolithography techniques. We use the silicon master to create a polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS; Sylgard 184, Dow Corning) cast of the post pattern. The PDMS cast forms a negative complement of the silicon master, consisting of wells rather than posts. The core of the flow cell is made of a photocurable polymer (NOA81, Norland Optics) and consists of a flat top half and a bottom half that contains the post structures (Fig. 1). To make the bottom half, we first deposit a puddle of NOA81 onto a 4-in. glass disk. We allow the NOA81 to spread across the disk before covering it with the PDMS cast. Upon contact, the NOA81 spontaneously imbibes into the wells in the PDMS cast. After removing excess NOA81 with a metal roller, we cure it with a collimated 365-nm UV light source (MA4-1, Karl Suss) for 15 s at 25 mW/cm². We peel off the PDMS cast after curing. The bottom half of the flow cell is now ready for wettability alteration (see the next section). To make the top half of the flow cell, we sandwich a puddle of NOA81 between two flat PDMS discs (4" diameter) separated by 100- μ m-thick precision metal shims. After the NOA81 fills the gap between the PDMS discs, we cure it with the MA4-1 for 60 s at 25 mW/cm². We then peel off one of the PDMS discs. The top half of the flow cell is now ready for wettability alteration (see the next section). The entire fabrication workflow is illustrated in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S2.

Wettability Alteration. We characterize the wettability of our system by placing a small drop of deionized (DI) water on a treated NOA81 surface submerged in a silicone oil-filled reservoir. We image the water drop with a contact angle goniometer (model 250, ramé-hart), which measures the

water/silicone oil contact angle via its DROPimage software. The images obtained from the contact angle measurements are provided in *SI Appendix, Fig. S3*. The contact angle of water on an untreated NOA81 surface immersed in silicone oil is $\theta = 120^\circ \pm 3^\circ$. NOA81 is a thiolene-based polymer that gains surface energy through deep UV radiation, due to the formation of peroxide groups (25). We make the NOA81 surface more hydrophilic by exposing it to high-energy UV light in a UV-ozone cleaner (UV-1, Samco, Japan). By varying the duration of UV exposure (t_{UV}), we achieve $\theta = 90^\circ \pm 7^\circ$ ($t_{UV} = 85$ s), $\theta = 60^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ ($t_{UV} = 210$ s), and $\theta = 7^\circ \pm 3^\circ$ ($t_{UV} = 1,800$ s). To make the NOA81 surface more hydrophobic, we apply CVD of trimethoxysilane in a desiccator for 30 min, which yields $\theta = 150^\circ \pm 5^\circ$.

Experimental Setup. To perform an experiment, we first inject silicone oil (350 cSt, Sigma-Aldrich) into the flow cell, which sits in an empty reservoir. After the flow cell is fully saturated, we pour silicone oil into the reservoir until the gap is fully submerged. We then inject DI water at a prescribed volume flow rate using a syringe pump (PHD 2000, Harvard Apparatus). We image the displacement via a scientific camera (Orca Flash 4.0, Hamamatsu) mounted directly above the center of the flow cell. The scientific camera has a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) sensor with $2,048 \times 2,048$ pixels, which yields a spatial resolution of $a = 52 \mu\text{m}$ per pixel.

1. Szulcowski ML, MacMinn CW, Herzog HJ, Juanes R (2012) Lifetime of carbon capture and storage as a climate-change mitigation technology. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 109(14):5185–5189.
2. Orr FM, Jr, Taber JJ (1984) Use of carbon dioxide in enhanced oil recovery. *Science* 224(4649):563–569.
3. Cueto-Felgueroso L, Juanes R (2008) Nonlocal interface dynamics and pattern formation in gravity-driven unsaturated flow through porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 101(24):244504.
4. Yang XG, Zhang FY, Lubawy AL, Wang CY (2004) Visualization of liquid water transport in a PEFC. *Electrochem Solid-State Lett* 11(4):A408–A411.
5. de Gennes PG (1985) Wetting: Statics and dynamics. *Rev Mod Phys* 57(3):827–863.
6. Kovscek AR, Wong H, Radke CJ (1993) A pore-level scenario for the development of mixed wettability in oil reservoirs. *AIChE J* 39(6):1072–1085.
7. Bonn D, Eggers J, Indekeu J, Meunier J, Rolley E (2009) Wetting and spreading. *Rev Mod Phys* 81:739–805.
8. Andrew M, Bijeljic B, Blunt M (2014) Pore-scale contact angle measurements at reservoir conditions using x-ray microtomography. *Adv Water Resour* 68:24–31.
9. Hauck J, Völker C (2015) Rising atmospheric CO₂ leads to large impact of biology on Southern Ocean CO₂ uptake via changes of the Revelle factor. *Geophys Res Lett* 42(5):1459–1464.
10. Standnes DC, Austad T (2000) Wettability alteration in chalk 2. Mechanism for wettability alteration from oil-wet to water-wet using surfactants. *J Petrol Sci Eng* 28(3):123–143.
11. Morrow N, Buckley J (2011) Improved oil recovery by low salinity waterflooding. *J Pet Technol* 63(5):106–112.
12. Chen P, Mohanty KK (2013) Surfactant-mediated spontaneous imbibition in carbonate rocks at harsh reservoir conditions. *Soc Pet Eng J* 18(1):124–133.
13. Song W, Kovscek AR (2015) Functionalization of micromodels with kaolinite for investigation of low salinity oil-recovery processes. *Lab Chip* 15(16):3314–3325.
14. Pak T, Butler IB, Geiger S, van Dijke M, Sorbie KS (2015) Droplet fragmentation: 3D imaging of a previously unidentified pore-scale process during multiphase flow in porous media. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 112(7):1947–1952.
15. Paterson L (1984) Diffusion-limited aggregation and two-fluid displacements in porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 52(18):1621–1624.
16. Jorgen Mloy K, Feder J, Jossang T (1985) Viscous fingering fractals in porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 55(24):2688–2691.
17. Chen J-D, Wilkinson D (1985) Pore-scale viscous fingering in porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 55(18):1892–1895.
18. Lenormand R, Touboul E, Zarcone C (1988) Numerical models and experiments on immiscible displacements in porous media. *J Fluid Mech* 189:165–187.
19. Stokes JP, et al. (1986) Interfacial stability of immiscible displacement in a porous medium. *Phys Rev Lett* 57(14):1718–1721.
20. Trojer M, Szulcowski ML, Juanes R (2015) Stabilizing fluid-fluid displacements in porous media through wettability alteration. *Phys Rev Appl* 3(5):054008.
21. Holtzman R, Segre E (2015) Wettability stabilizes fluid invasion into porous media via nonlocal, cooperative pore filling. *Phys Rev Lett* 115(16):164501.
22. Lenormand R, Zarcone C, Sarr A (1983) Mechanisms of the displacement of one fluid by another in a network of capillary ducts. *J Fluid Mech* 135:123–132.
23. Zhao B, et al. (2013) Interface pinning of immiscible gravity-exchange flows in porous media. *Phys Rev E Stat Nonlin Soft Matter Phys* 87(2):023015.
24. Porter ML, et al. (2015) Geo-material microfluidics at reservoir conditions for subsurface energy resource applications. *Lab Chip* 15(20):4044–4053.
25. Levaché B, Azioune A, Bourrel M, Studer V, Bartolo D (2012) Engineering the surface properties of microfluidic stickers. *Lab Chip* 12(17):3028–3031.
26. Levaché B, Bartolo D (2014) Revisiting the Saffman-Taylor experiment: imbibition patterns and liquid-entrainment transitions. *Phys Rev Lett* 113(4):044501.
27. Taylor GI (1961) Deposition of a viscous fluid on the wall of a tube. *J Fluid Mech* 10:161–165.
28. Bertherton FP (1961) The motion of long bubbles in tubes. *J Fluid Mech* 10:166–188.
29. Cieplak M, Robbins MO (1988) Dynamical transition in quasistatic fluid invasion in porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 60(20):2042–2045.
30. Cieplak M, Robbins MO (1990) Influence of contact angle on quasistatic fluid invasion of porous media. *Phys Rev B Condens Matter* 41(16):11508–11521.
31. Martys N, Cieplak M, Robbins MO (1991) Critical phenomena in fluid invasion of porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 66(8):1058–1061.
32. Concus P, Finn R (1969) On the behavior of a capillary surface in a wedge. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 63(2):292–299.
33. Ransohoff TC, Radke CJ (1988) Laminar flow of a wetting liquid along the corners of a predominantly gas-occupied noncircular pore. *J Colloid Interface Sci* 121:392–401.
34. Dong M, Chatzis I (1995) The imbibition and flow of a wetting liquid along the corners of a square capillary tube. *J Colloid Interface Sci* 172:278–288.
35. Romero LA, Yost FG (1996) Flow in an open channel capillary. *J Fluid Mech* 322:109–129.
36. Weislogel MM, Lichter S (1998) Capillary flow in an interior corner. *J Fluid Mech* 373:349–378.
37. Bico J, Quéré D (2002) Rise of liquids and bubbles in angular capillary tubes. *J Colloid Interface Sci* 247(1):162–166.
38. Måløy KJ, Furuberg L, Feder J, Jossang T (1992) Dynamics of slow drainage in porous media. *Phys Rev Lett* 68(14):2161–2164.
39. Furuberg L, Måløy KJ, Feder J (1996) Intermittent behavior in slow drainage. *Phys Rev E Stat Phys Plasmas Fluids Relat Interdiscip Topics* 53(1):966–977.
40. Berg S, et al. (2013) Real-time 3D imaging of Haines jumps in porous media flow. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 110(10):3755–3759.
41. Moebius F, Or D (2014) Pore scale dynamics underlying the motion of drainage fronts in porous media. *Water Resour Res* 50(11):8441–8457.
42. Dullien FAL (1991) *Porous Media: Fluid Transport and Pore Structure* (Academic, San Diego), 2nd Ed.
43. Quéré D (2008) Wetting and roughness. *Annu Rev Mater Res* 38:71–99.
44. van der Elst NJ, Savage HM, Keranen KM, Abers GA (2013) Enhanced remote earthquake triggering at fluid-injection sites in the midwestern United States. *Science* 341(6142):164–167.
45. Warner NR, et al. (2012) Geochemical evidence for possible natural migration of Marcellus Formation brine to shallow aquifers in Pennsylvania. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 109(30):11961–11966.
46. Jha B, Juanes R (2014) Coupled multiphase flow and poromechanics: A computational model of pore pressure effects on fault slip and earthquake triggering. *Water Resour Res* 50(5):3776–3808.
47. Valvatne PH, Blunt MJ (2004) Predictive pore-scale modeling of two-phase flow in mixed wet media. *Water Resour Res* 40(7):W07406.
48. Martic G, Blake TD, De Coninck J (2005) Dynamics of imbibition into a pore with a heterogeneous surface. *Langmuir* 21(24):11201–11207.
49. Alava M, Dubé M, Rost M (2004) Imbibition in disordered media. *Adv Phys* 53(2):83–175.
50. Keller AA, Blunt MJ, Roberts PV (1997) Micromodel observation of the role of oil layers in three-phase flow. *Transp Porous Media* 26(3):277–297.
51. Bartolo D, Degré G, Nghe P, Studer V (2008) Microfluidic stickers. *Lab Chip* 8(2):274–279.